



URC EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD

E-LETTER NO: 247 – 22nd JUNE 2017

EDITED THIS WEEK BY: REVD SARAH GOWER

Our God is the same yesterday, today and forever! That is, our God of love, of peace, of joy, of justice, of hope. How amazing and how wonderful! Over these last few weeks, we have heard of so many tragedies and atrocities, even in our own country. As I write, a van has been driven into a group of Muslims leaving their mosque after a service. We have heard of the fire in the Grenfell Tower flats, been angry on behalf of residents, and felt compassion and sadness for the people living there. The fire which claimed so many lives, injured many more and destroyed their homes. Westminster Bridge, Manchester Arena, London Bridge – our minds whirl with what is happening. What can we do? We pause... Our God is the same yesterday, today and forever! By God's grace, he has called us to be a people of love, of peace, of joy, of justice and of hope in our world. In the middle of all the messiness of life, Jesus came into the world – then and now – to draw us towards God and to remind us of who God is, to remind us to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves. It is the calling of each of us today, tomorrow and week by week. Of course, we do not do that alone – we do it together and by God's Holy Spirit. May our lives be prophetic as together we reflect our God of love, of peace, of joy, of justice and of hope that we, and those around us, might see all the wonderful possibilities in the people that God created in his image. And, let us always remember.... Our God is the same yesterday, today and forever!

Sarah Gower (Convenor of Youth and Children's)

PEOPLE

- We are very pleased to be welcoming **Vicky Longbone** to the Synod as CRCW in Derby this August, Vicky's commissioning service is being held on Saturday 12th August at Ashbourne Road LEP at 3pm.
- We are delighted to inform you that **Liz Adams** will be taking up her first pastorate in July. Liz will be ordained and inducted to the pastorate of Castle Hill, Doddridge Memorial and The Headlands on Saturday 2nd September at Castle Hill URC at 3pm.



LINCOLNSHIRE

STAMFORD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH - Eleanor Turner presents Family Concert Harp & String Quartet, music by Benjamin Rimmer, Savourna Stevenson, Grieg & Liszt. Eleanor Turner, with String Quartet led by Chris Rogers, on Sunday 2nd July at 3pm doors open at 2.30pm at Stamford URC, Star Lane Stamford PE9 2XZ. Free entry but opportunity for donations for the musicians to aid an overseas trip. Refreshments served in the Hall afterwards. Eleanor is an attender and supporter of Stamford URC and an internationally renowned Harpist. We hope for a really good attendance. Please come and a very warm welcome to all.

OTHER

GIVING THANKS FOR THE WINDERMERE CENTRE

The Windermere Centre – which focused on delivering residential courses for lay people – closed on 25th May 2017. The decision to close the Centre was made at Mission Council on 13 and 14 May 2017, following long and difficult deliberations, and acknowledging a profound debt of gratitude for its unique, 30-year contribution to the life of the United Reformed Church. - See more at: <http://www.urch.org.uk/general/2369-the-windermere-centre.html#sthash.MerX1X8m.dpuf>

A service of thanksgiving for the work of the Windermere Centre is being held on Saturday 15 July 2017 at 3pm. Preacher: The Reverend Tony Burnham. At: Carver Uniting Church, Lake Road, Windermere, LA23 2DB, To be followed by refreshments, All are welcome!

Please let the Revd Lis Mullen know no later than Monday 10 July – by e-mail, phone or post – if you plan to attend: revdlis@gmail.com

Tel: 015394 45456 Address: 7 Green Moss, Oakthwaite Rd, Windermere LA23 2BB



TO BE A PILGRIM – Welcoming visitors and pilgrims in the 21st century

Churches Visitor & Tourism Association in partnership with Christianity and Culture, University of York invite you to our Annual Conference & AGM 2017, Friday & Saturday 13 - 14 October in York.

Join us for our friendly, informative and fun annual conference.

For churches: meet other volunteers and clergy from churches open and wanting to open, share stories, get great ideas and learn from the experience of those working in church tourism across the UK.

For professionals: meet others in the sector, inspire joint working or new projects and ideas!

For more information and to book visit: www.cvta.org.uk



ECO SYNOD

At the 2016 General Assembly, the United Reformed Church (URC) commended the Eco Church award scheme within the context of its new Environmental Policy. The URC has since worked with A Rocha UK to develop Eco Synod as a tool by which Synods can encourage local churches to engage in wider creation care. The Eco Synod Award is a development of Eco Church whereby a URC Synod can register its interest in and work towards an award. The two awards are designed to complement each other, encouraging both Synod-level and local church-level engagement with Eco Church. The Eco Synod page is now live on the Eco Church website, for more information on this visit: <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/eco-synod/>



INVITATION

You are warmly invited to a Service to mark the Golden Jubilee of Revd Michael Playdon's Ordination to the Christian Ministry at Loughborough United Reformed Church on Sunday 23rd July 2017 at 4 p.m.

Presiding Minister: The Revd Peter Meek, Moderator of the East Midlands Synod

Preacher: Mr. Alan Yates, Joint Moderator of the General Assembly

To be followed by refreshments. Please let Mike know if you intend to come – to help with catering.

If you are not able to come, please remember Mike in your prayers. Please reply to: 43 Grange Drive, Glen Parva, Leicester, LE2 9PH, or 0116 230 4634 or playdon.mike@gmail.com

SYNOD BIBLE STUDY FOR LAY PREACHERS

Led by Revd Dr Deborah Baird on Saturday 1st July 2017 from 10.30am - 3pm at Kilby URC, Leicester. Booking is essential, to book contact Hannah Holmes at the Synod Office: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241



FEASTS AND FESTIVALS



SYNOD STUDY DAY – All are invited to our Study Day, led by Revd Dr David

Cornick on the theme of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. On Saturday 15th July 2017 from 10am – 4pm (please bring a packed lunch) at Sherwood URC, Nottingham. Booking is essential, to book please contact Hannah Holmes at the Synod Office: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241



CONSTANCE COLTMAN CENTENARY SERVICE - on Sunday 17 September, 3pm at the American International Church in London. All are invited. Please let Francis Brien know of women to invite especially who have played a pioneering role in our churches: francis.brien@urc.org.uk

YOUTH AND CHILDREN

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

The dates of our upcoming safeguarding training events are:

- Tuesday 27th June 2017 – Melbourne URC – 7.30pm – 9.30pm
- Tuesday 4th July 2017 – Ermine URC - **10am - 1pm** – please note the new time for this event

All are welcome. To book please contact Hannah Holmes at the Synod Office: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241



YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S LEADERS WEEKEND

Are you a Youth or Children's leader? Why not come along to East Midlands Synod's Youth and Children's Leaders Weekend? Join our CYDO, Jane Henderson for a weekend of:

- Worship Ideas
- Bible Study
- Social Time
- Idea Sharing/ Renewal

From Friday 15th – Sunday 17th September 2017 at the Hayes, Swanwick, Alfreton, DE55 1AU. Spaces are limited, so booking is essential. There is no charge for this event but you may like to make a voluntary contribution of £20. For a booking form contact Hannah Holmes: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Tel: 0115 9609241

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

THE EASTERN SYNOD OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH - wishes to appoint a FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT

This is a full-time position for an ACA (or equivalent) qualified accountant with a wide practical experience and who is sympathetic to the aims and purposes of the Church.

The post is based at the Synod Office in Whittlesford, south of Cambridge.

In addition to the usual professional responsibilities for charity accounts, budgets, payroll, cash flow management, trust investments, company secretarial duties etc., the post-holder will be expected to support congregations and others on financial and legal matters generally.

Salary - £34,000 - £38,0000

For further details please telephone or email Sue Drane on 01223 830770 admin@urceastern.org.uk

Applications should be submitted no later than 20th July 2017.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH - WALKING THE WAY PROJECT MANAGER

London - Fixed Term Contract for 3 Years - 35 hours per week - Salary: £36,878

Walking the Way, living the life of Jesus today!

This year the United Reformed Church will start a new process to refresh and grow members' and churches' habits of discipleship and mission. The project was adopted by General Assembly in 2016 as a major emphasis in the life of our Church.

This multifaceted programme will seek to equip people for whole life discipleship and to help local churches to grow as intentional communities of disciples.

To help to enable this project to take shape, you will be passionate about discipleship and mission and have a proven track record in project management and organisational culture change. This experience will have ensured you are an excellent communicator, highly organised with electronic and social media skills and a keen ability to motivate and encourage others.

If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements, please contact us/see our website for an application form (noting that we do not accept CVs):

Human Resources Office, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT

T: 0207 691 9871 E: recruitment@urc.org.uk W: www.urc.org.uk/vacancies

Previous applicants need not apply

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 17 July 2017 Interview date: Wednesday 9 August 2017

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH - PROGRAMME OFFICER (GLOBAL AND INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES)

London - Fixed term, Maternity cover (1 September 2017 – 28 February 2018) - 24 hours per week -Salary: £25,667

Are you a highly motivated individual with a passion for the world Church family at home and abroad and with skills for Intercultural working in a Church context? This post is maternity cover for the Programme Officer who enables and equips local churches to build global relationships and partnerships.

You will already have experience of intercultural and ecumenical working and knowledge of global affairs, from both church and secular perspectives. You will be able to reflect theologically on Mission and what it means to belong to the global church, and be able to work effectively on your own and as part of a team. You will also have excellent interpersonal, networking and communication skills, and a high degree of experience with managing webpages and the use of social media. Fluency in a language other than English would be a distinct advantage.

If you are interested in working for us and can meet the above requirements, please contact us/see our website for an application form (noting that we do not accept CVs):

Human Resources Office, the United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT

T: 0207 691 9874 E: recruitment@urc.org.uk W: www.urc.org.uk/vacancies

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 17 July 2017 Interview date: Thursday 10 August 2017

YEAR BOOK CHANGES

- Please note that **Revd Rodney Ward**, retired minister in Derbyshire, has a new email address: hodgeward@gmail.com

AND FINALLY: - Please send any comments or feedback on this e-letter to: admin@urc5.org.uk
The URC East Midlands Synod, 1 Edwards Lane, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 3AA.
Email address for E-Letter Editor: trainingpa@urc5.org.uk Copy Date for Next E-Letter: 03.07.2017